

# Bluestone Lake Flooding

## 9-28/30-2024

Bluestone Dam - Hinton, West Virginia

Devastating rainfall from the Gulf of Mexico's Hurricane Helene drenched Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Boone, North Carolina, the head of the mighty New River, had nearly 30" of rainfall. The floods overflowed its banks and it continued along the New River northward to the Bluestone Dam. The water crested just below the highest recorded watermark that occurred on 4-6-1960. Bluestone Dam did its job, showing the importance of the structure. The water backed up behind the dam and these are pictures of the results of the flood waters behind the dam.



Corps of Engineers staff plot their strategy to handle the ensuing flood.





The waters rise to historic levels





The spillway on the lower side of the dam is only functioning at half capacity, due to the long-term construction project.



The spillway roars and will do so for many days, to release the buildup behind the dam.



Downstream, the view shows the dam spillway running at half capacity.





The flood debris builds up quickly behind the dam on Bluestone Lake



As the flood debris builds up behind the dam, onlookers observe.





On the lake side of the dam, a marker shows the all-time, high-water mark.  
The flood waters are rapidly approaching that mark.



The waters at the mouth of the Bluestone River at the confluence of the New River, rapidly rise underneath the new Lilly Bridge.





That's as far as you go.



Some of this debris found its way here from  
North Carolina and Virginia.





A unique view shot from underneath the  
New River twin bridge below the dam.



The road to the boat launch gets covered.





As the flood waters start their ascent under the new Lilly Bridge, the roadway at lake level gets covered.



  
KB Photography

They won't be launching boats for quite a while.





The debris doesn't mind where it rests.

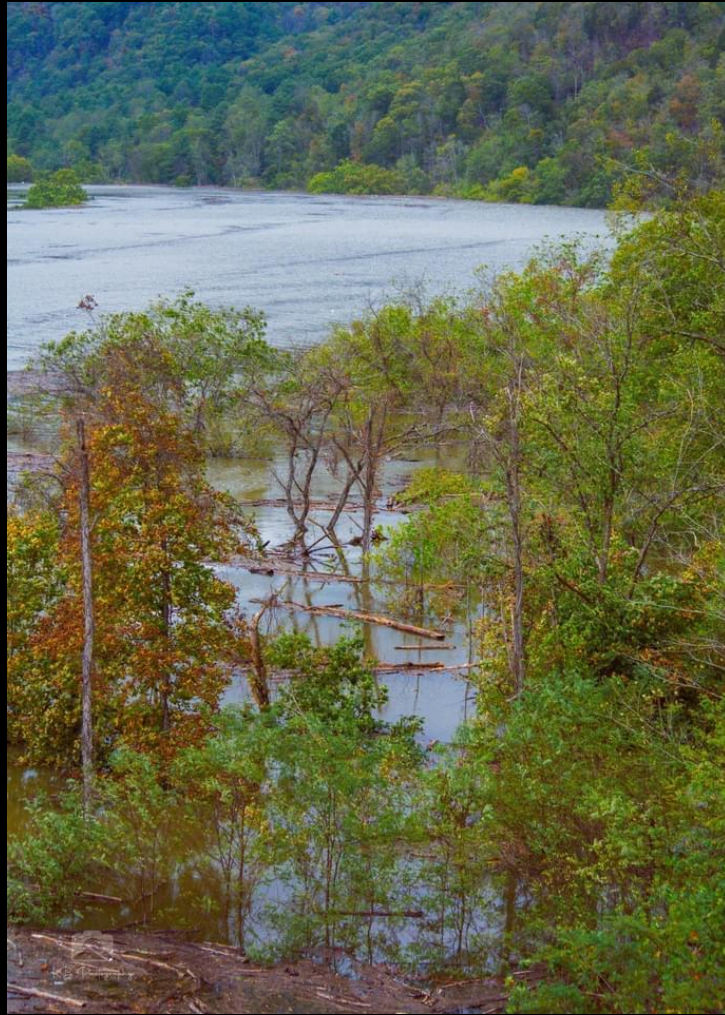


The waters rise above the dam.





A view of the lake waters rising into the trees.



At the marina, the boat-dock building floods, but the dock rises with water level. The boats remain moored safely.





You never know what you'll find in the debris field.



As the water level rises, the record level marker underneath the new Lilly Bridge, shows the comparison.





The new Lilly Bridge.  
A year makes a huge difference.



The pictures in this slide show were taken by various Summers County photographers. We thank them for their efforts to show the results of the flood. Our gratitude goes out to the entire staff of the Bluestone Corps of Engineers for their outstanding work protecting the residents of Summers County and Southern West Virginia.

Bluestone Lake crested at 1,493.7ft above sea level on September 29, 2024, 83ft above normal pool. The record high water mark is 1,506.04 on April 4, 1960. Before the 2024 flood, the pool was much lower than normal, due to the extended drought in Summers County.

Thank goodness!